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GOVERNOR



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SECRETARY

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY  
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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
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February 20, 2004

Mr. James I. Palmer, Jr.  
Regional Administrator  
U.S. EPA, Region 4  
Atlanta Federal Center  
61 Forsyth Street, S.W.  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303-8960

Dear Mr. Palmer:

On May 21, 2003, you notified Kentucky's Governor that proposed boundary designations under the new  $PM_{2.5}$  fine particulate standard were due by February 15, 2004. At that time, EPA recommended that states use 2000-2002 fine particulate monitoring data to make those recommendations. Your office transmitted guidance dated April 1, 2003, from Jeffrey Holmstead setting presumptive nonattainment boundaries and offering states an opportunity to address several factors in assessing whether to exclude portions of metropolitan areas from nonattainment designation.

EPA has yet to release draft implementation guidance on what the potential impacts may be for areas designated as nonattainment under the new fine particulate standard. States will be faced with many challenges implementing this standard. Having no clear guidance on implementation issues associated with these designations impedes our ability to explain potential impacts of the designations to our local communities.

Nonetheless, section 107 of the Clean Air Act requires states to propose designations for areas within their respective boundaries, as attainment or nonattainment areas. In order to comply with those provisions in the Act, Kentucky offers the following designation recommendations under the  $PM_{2.5}$  standard. Supporting documentation, based on EPA's guidance criteria is enclosed.

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<u>Designation</u>	<u>County</u>
Nonattainment	Jefferson
Nonattainment	Fayette
Defer Designation	Boyd
Attainment	Rest of State

You will note that Kentucky has chosen to defer designation of Boyd County as either attainment or nonattainment for  $PM_{10}$ . This is due to the significant variations in the ambient monitoring data, the substantial decline in emissions within Boyd County, and the current anticipated improvements in air quality in the tri state metropolitan statistical area over the next two years. As these improvements will be achieved well before any control plans might conceivably be implemented, it appears premature to make a determination for Boyd County at this time. Jefferson and Fayette Counties are designated as nonattainment, and all remaining counties are designated as attainment.

Kentucky wishes to comply with the Act and cooperate with U.S. EPA to improve and preserve air quality for the citizens of the Commonwealth. We remain concerned about the environmental and economic impacts of implementation of this standard, since implementation requirements for these areas are still being debated on a national level. Therefore, I urge EPA to complete its implementation guidelines as quickly and judiciously as possible.

Please call me if you have any questions or would like to discuss in greater detail.

Sincerely,

  
LaJuana S. Wilcher  
Secretary

Enclosure

c: Kay Prince  
John Lyons  
Lona Brewer